

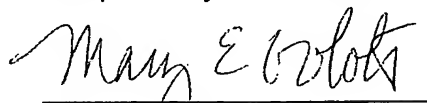
REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1-17 have been amended in accordance with the requirements of U.S. patent practice. Applicants respectfully request entry of the preliminary amendment.

CONCLUSION

Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the Application and pending claims are patentable in view of the foregoing amendments and/or remarks. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. As always, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Undersigned by telephone if direct conversation would be helpful.

Respectfully Submitted,



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